Senate Panel to Ask Nixon if He Knows of Plots Against Castr

By NICHOLAS M. HORROCK
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WASHINGTON, July 8—Senator Frank Church, Democrat of Idaho, who is chairman of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, said today that former President Richard M. Nixon would be asked if he had any evidence regarding Central Intelligenco Agency plots to assassinate Premier Castro of Cuba. Such plots allegedly began in the last year of the Eisenhower Administration, when Mr. Nixon was Vice President.

Senator Church told reporters that Mr. Nixon had been "action officer for the Eisenhower Administration in connection with the preparations for the Bay of Pigs," and that as a result the former President might have knowledge of plans to kill Mr. Castro.

He said that committee staff members would get in touch with Mr. Nixon's lawyers in nn effort to find out if he had new evidence.

"The committee has discussed this matter, and we nre now in the process of approaching, Mr. Nixon and his attorney Mr. Church said. "I simply don't want to blow this up out of context, because at this time we have no reason to believe that this testimony will be very important in connection with the assassination issue.

"However, we're trying to touch every possibility. We don't want to overlook any possibility, and for that reason we'll take the necessary precautions where Mr. Nixon is concerned."

Mr. Church's reference to "precautions" appeared to mean that the committee did not want to issue its final report on C.I.A. assassination plots without having made an effort to get all possible evidence.

Authoritative intelligence sources and numerous press reports have said that plots to kill Mr. Castro and Generalissimo Rafael Leonidas Trujillo Molina, then the Dominican Republic's strongman, were conceived in the last year of the Eisenhower Administration. The committee plans to question several witnesses about what was done in 1959 and 1960.

For instance, the committee has called Gordon Gray to appear tomorrow. He was President Eisenhower's Special Assistant for Foreign Affairs and represented Mr. Eisenhower on the National Security Council's Special group, which controlled covert activities.

The Senate committee has also called Thomas Parrott, a former C.I.A. officer who was secretary of the Special Group.

The scope of Mr. Nixon's knowledge of the plans against Cuba is not publicly known. Mr. Church said today "Some have called him [Mr. Nixon]] an action officer for the Eisenhower Administration," but did not give details.

E. Howard Hunt Jr., a Watergate burglar and former C.I.A. officer, said in a book on the Bay of Pigs that Mr. Nixon was the action officer. Mr. Nixon discussed his role in his book "Six Crises," though he did not use the term "action officer."

He said that he had been hamstrung in his pre-election debates with then Senator John F. Kennedy because he knew of covert operations being planned against Cuba that he said he chose not to compromise. Mr. Kennedy was charging at the time that the Eisenhower Administration had not taken a hard enough line against the Cuban leader.

In the book, Mr. Nixon said that after a three-hour meeting with Mr. Castro in April, 1959, he became convinced that Mr. castro was eithe a Communist or "naive." He said that then wrote a secret memorandu that was sent to the C.I.A., the State Department and the White House urging that United States foreign policy be toughened against Mr. Castro.

At first, Mr. Nixon said in the book, this was opposed by many in the Government but by early 1960 a secret order was issued to arm and train Cuban refugees in the United States and in Latin-American countries. Mr. N
said that to protect the sec
of this operation he did
use his knowelledge of i
the debates against Mr. Ke
dy. The plans evolved into
ay of Pigs invasion of
in April, 1961.

Herbert J. Miller, Mr.
on's lawyer, issued a state
saying that he had had
liminary contact with the
mittee staff, but that no fo
request had been received
declined to speculate wh
the former President, who
lives in San Clemente, C
would cooperate with the
mittee.

Mr. Church said that
was a "very real possibi
the committee would also
Mr. Nixon as a witnes
other matters in its inves
tion of the United States
ligence community.

Frank Church, left, head of the Senate S
tee on Intelligence, talking yesterday wi
Lansdale, a retired major general, who h
marks about Premier Fidel Castro were
Church said yesterday his committee wou
M. Nixon about possible plots against